3: Czaplicka E-4 (no date) 1918 RL4 Turkic Peoples RL4

Curiously enough, it is recorded in the old Russian Cossack reports of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, made accessible of late years, that the Kirghis, who were then fighting with the Mongolians of Jungaria, tried to communicate with the Cossacks, and to show them tracks through the forest, by means of such pictographic signs.[1]

In comparing the life of the old inhabitants of this region with that of the modern population it is natural to begin by considering the form of their dwellings. Unfortunately there are no indications as to the type of habitation of the people of the Bronze or the Iron Ages. The region furnishes, however, such a collection of various types of dwelling, that it is not fanciful to assume a long evolutionary development. First there is the very primitive tent, *suyulta*, or *alenchek* if covered with birch bark. Then there are quadrangular wooden dwellings called *aida*, still without windows. Next come wooden structures covered with earth, and provided with a window. These are called *kuzenek*, and in them a clay stove, *chuval*, has already replaced the smoke-hole of the more primitive types. There is an elaborated form, called *spa*, in which the whole structure is raised higher from the ground, and given a hexagonal shape, with a sloping roof. Within, it has a kind of small vestibule. The tent also has its line of development, for the use of such of the population as devote their attention to cattle-breeding, and hence are seasonal

[1] *Memoirs of Siberian History, Seventeenth Century*, vol. I, No. 58. N. N. Kosmin, in one of his recent journeys in the Amyl Taiga of the Minusinsk country, records that his Tatar guide, on striking camp left behind a notched stick, the notches on which indicated: 'Five of us slept here one night and went away in two boats' (N. N. Kosmin, *Chern*, p. 99).

A. Czaplicka E-4 (no date) 1918 RL4 Turkic Peoples RL4

172 342 nomads. This, in its most elaborate form, is spherical, and resembles to some extent the so-called Kirghis, or properly speaking Kaizak, tent, from which, however, it differs in having a conical top instead of being built round a circular frame. There also exist hexagonal, octagonal, and polygonal varieties. These are usually covered with felt, and are called *yurta*.[1]

137 262 As regards the botanical environment, more data are available for comparison. There are certain forest plants, very plentiful in the Altai and Sayan Mountains, whose roots are much esteemed as food by the modern Turks, as they seem to have been by the ancient. Among them are *sarana* (*Lilium Martagon*), *kandyk* (*Erithronium dens canis*), and *cheremsha* (*Allium ursinum*). So characteristic are these roots as articles of food among the present-day Turks that the names for the different times of the year are taken from the plants that are then in season. Thus Bes-ai is 'the month of *kandyk*' (May), and Ak-sep-ai is 'the month of *sarana*' (June).

172 241 The agriculture carried on in the clearings of the forest was in the olden days similar to what it was at the time when the Russians first occupied the country. Barley seems to have been the chief product. On spots where the cattle have been pastured for some time the modern Altaians grow hemp. The vegetable ornament found in the late Bronze Age, and in abundance in the Iron Age, proves that the ancient inhabitants knew and used the same plants as are utilized by the present natives.

Among the agricultural implements found in the

[1] N. M. Yadrintseff, *On the Altaians and the Chern Tatars*, p. 8.